

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115549
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USPS-01 EB-08 L-03 OC-06 CCO-00
SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /061 R

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EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
USPS:RSANCHEZ

-----043144 081545Z /53

P R 052316Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115549

CORRECTED CY(PARA 1 LINE 6, PARA 4 LINE 6)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, PGOV, GE

SUBJECT: US-GDR PARCEL POST AGREEMENT

REF: (A) 76 STATE 190160 (B) STATE 091709
(C) BERLIN 2966 (D) BERLIN 3082

1. PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO CSCE IN EARLIER DRAFT OF US-GDR
PARCEL POST AGREEMENT WAS INSISTED UPON BY GDR AND SERVES
NO US PURPOSE. THE JULY 1976 STATE DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL
FOR AN ANODYNE PHRASE "NOTING THE RESULTS OF THE CSCE"
(REF A) WAS ONLY MADE TO THE GDR EMBASSY HERE AS A MEANS
OF REPLACING GDR LANGUAGE THAT WENT MUCH FURTHER. ARGUING,
HOWEVER, THAT A TECHNICAL AGREEMENT OF THIS SORT IS NOT THE
PLACE TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES. USPS INSISTED UPON ITS
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PREROGATIVES UNDER SECTION 407, TITLE 39 USC TO NEGOTIATE
SUCH AGREEMENTS AND REFUSED TO ACCEPT EVEN THE COMPROMISE
LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY STATE.
2. SINCE THE DEPARTMENT AGREES IN GENERAL THAT POLITICAL
ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE INJECTED INTO THE NEGOTIATION OF
TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS, WE WERE NOT INCLINED TO PURSUE THE
MATTER FURTHER WITH THE USPS, PARTICULARLY SINCE DOING SO

WOULD FURTHER DELAY THE TRANSMITTAL OF OUR DRAFT WHICH HAD BEEN IN PRODUCTION FOR OVER TWO YEARS. IN THIS REGARD, WE WERE PERSUADED THAT SPEED IN TRANSMITTING AN INOFFENSIVE DRAFT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN QUIBBLING OVER CSCE LANGUAGE HAVING NO BEARING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. THE PASSAGE OF TWO YEARS HAD NOT ONLY FURTHER DILUTED THE MEANING OF THE CSCE LANGUAGE, BUT HAD ALSO, AS THE GDR HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR, CONVEYED AN UNINTENDED NEGATIVE POLITICAL SIGNAL OF LACK OF INTEREST IN AN AGREEMENT.

3. A COMPLICATING FACTOR THAT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE DRAFTING DELAY WITHIN USPS WAS THE FACT THAT USPS WAS ATTEMPTING TO ADAPT THE DRAFT US-GDR AGREEMENT TO A NEW STANDARD FORMAT THAT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT. THE DRAFT SUBMITTED TO THE GDR ON APRIL 7 (REF B) IS THE RESULT OF THAT PROCESS AND IS PRECISELY THE SAME AS THAT SUBMITTED TO ROMANIA THE SAME WEEK.

4. IF THE GDR RAISES THIS ISSUE AGAIN, THE EMBASSY SHOULD:
(A) POINT OUT THAT THE US-GDR DRAFT IS THE SAME AS THE US-ROMANIA DRAFT AND REPRESENTS A NEW STANDARD USPS FORMAT; (B) RESTATE OUR GENERAL POSITION THAT TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS ARE NOT THE PLACE TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES; AND (C) EXPRESS A DESIRE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT THAT IS ON THE TABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, AGREEMENT DRAFT, POLICIES, TEXT, POSTAL SERVICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE115549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/CE:VGRAY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0458
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780587/aaaacwim.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4673aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 190160, 78 STATE 91709, 78 BERLIN 2966, 78 BERLIN 3082
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2773637
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-GDR PARCEL POST AGREEMENT
TAGS: ETEL, PGOV, GC, US
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4673aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014